

REMARKS**Restriction Requirement:**

Claims 1-18 are subject to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as follows:

Claims 1-9, are drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 425, subclass 121

Claims 10-18, are drawn to a process, classified in class 264, subclass 40.1.

Applicants do not seek to traverse the requirement for restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and hereby withdraw claims 10-18.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 4 recites the limitation “the upper surface” in line 2. The Examiner indicated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Applicants’ amendments to claim 4 have addressed this rejection and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2 rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Needleman (3,796,532), rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yada, et al (5,837,297) and rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fenati (1,854,788).

The Examiner has, however, indicated the presence of allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that if objected to claims 3, 5, 7 and 8 were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims that the claim would be allowable. Applicants’ amendments to claim 1 has addressed this rejection and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112(b) rejection.

This should be considered a complete response to the Office Action dated May 10, 2005. Should the Examiner believe that any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE L.C.


Robert J. Lambrechts, Reg. No. 46,854
2345 Grand Boulevard, Suite 2400
Kansas City, Missouri 64108
(816) 460-5814 Telephone
(816) 292-2001 Facsimile

CC 1414265v1